European Science, Engineering and Technology Highlights[1]
MAY 2014

To navigate down the report, hold down the CTRL key and click on the title to go to the desired article. You may return to the selected country by clicking on the ⇮ at the bottom of each article.

[1] *Note: If you would like additional information or background, please feel free to contact Carine Polliotti at cpolliot@nsf.gov*

1 EU Research on the World Stage European Commission, Cordis

By working in collaboration with partners from around the world, European ICT researchers are addressing global problems in medicine, agriculture, networking and beyond. EU-funded research projects are making a difference to people's lives in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas while at the same time ensuring that Europe stays at the forefront of the global ICT industry.

Full article available at:
http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=141460&CultureCode=en

2 The crucial role of national funding agencies in the Eurostars program (05-May-2014)

A new publication shows just how important national funding bodies are to success of Eurostars*: today the only European funding program to be specifically dedicated to R&D-performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Eurostars is a joint program between EUREKA* and the European Union. The new brochure, published by Eureka, the implementing body of the €1.14 ($1.9 billion) billion program, introduces the role of national funding bodies in Eurostars operations and in terms of services offered to SMEs. National funding bodies are also involved in the definition and application of progressive milestones, such as the harmonization of national rules and the simplification of administrative procedures.

**Note: EUREKA is an intergovernmental network launched in 1985, to support market-oriented research, development and innovation projects by industry, research centers and universities across all technological sectors. It is composed of 41 members, including the European Union represented by the European Commission. Eurostars is a program that supports research-performing small and medium enterprises, which develop innovative products, processes and services, to gain competitive advantage. Eurostars does this by providing funding for transnational innovation projects; the products of which are then rapidly commercialized. The Eurostars program is publicly financed with a total budget of 1.14 billion euro and is currently supported by 33 EUREKA countries and the European Union.*

Full article available at:
http://www.eurekanetwork.org/about/-/journal_content/56/10137/4145793?refererPlid=10195

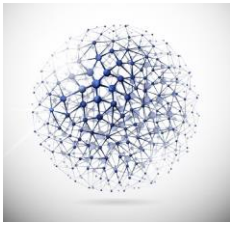
3 European Commission welcomes EU Member States' approval of multi-billion euro innovation partnerships

The European Commission has welcomed final adoption by European Union (EU) - member States of nine public-private and public-public research partnerships worth up to €20 billion ($27.8 billion). The partnerships had already been approved by the European Parliament on 15 April. Most of the investment will go to five public-private partnerships in innovative medicines, aeronautics, bio-based industries, fuel cells and electronics. The decision paves the way to launch these partnerships, with first calls for projects expected on 9th July. EU Member States are expected to formally adopt related partnerships on rail transport and air traffic management (Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research) worth an additional €2 billion ($2.8 billion) in the coming weeks.

Full article available at:
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-149_en.htm?locale=en

4 JRC (Joint Research Center, the European Commission in-house science service) new website, the Science Hub, goes live

Discover the Science Hub – the portal bringing together scientific knowledge for Europe

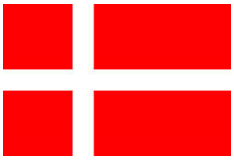


Discover the Science Hub – the portal bringing together scientific knowledge for Europe - ©Fotolia

The newly launched Science Hub brings together, on one single platform, all scientific knowledge produced by the European Commission's in-house science service and its research institutes across Europe. It integrates and aggregates information on the JRC's scientific activities, publications, in-house developed tools and databases, laboratories and unique research facilities. The Science Hub enhances the transparency and openness of the European Commission's in-house science service and facilitates the open access policy of our scientific research.

Full article available at:
https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/discover-science-hub

5 Denmark: Universities begin preparing for sweeping reforms



Danish universities are preparing for extensive changes now that the Productivity Commission and the Quality Commission have delivered their reports. Higher Education and Science Minister Sofie Carsten Nielsen told higher education officials that among other things she wants a focus on quality, new ways of teaching using new technology and more employable graduates.

Although the commissions' proposals have yet to be discussed in parliament, and the final report of the Quality Commission is not expected until autumn, universities know change is coming and pretty much what it will entail, and are positioning themselves accordingly.

Full article available at:
http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20140508183343728

6 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) announces €47 million ($65.5 million) in funding for pioneering research initiatives through SFI Investigators Program

The Program will provide funding over a three to five year period, for 36 research projects involving over 200 researchers. Funding for each project will range from €400,000 ($ 557,000) to €3.1 million ($4.7 million).

Funding will be for pioneering research initiatives, delivered by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, through the SFI Investigators Program. The Program will provide funding over a three to five year period, for 36 research projects involving over 200 researchers.

Full article available at:
http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=141455&CultureCode=en

7 New Norwegian R&D policy for university colleges

University colleges* play an important role in the interplay between research, education and innovation. The Research Council of Norway is now presenting a new policy for R&D activity at university colleges.

The Research Council has developed the policy in close dialogue with the university colleges, based on an extensive consultation round. The policy describes the challenges, objectives and instruments for three action areas: capacity building, consolidation of research groups, and increased cooperation on R&D in collaboration with working life.

**Note: A university college is an independent institution that provides tertiary education (Bachelor and Master degrees) and in some cases also quaternary education (PhD). In Norway, the main difference is that the university colleges must apply to a central government agency to establish new master's and PhD degrees, whereas a university has the right to award degrees in any field and at all levels without applying. The distinction between universities and university colleges have been gradually phased out through legislative reforms in 1995 and 2005, the two types of institutions are now governed by the same law, they have the same structure and the same obligation to provide research-based education.*

Full article available at:
http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/New_RD_policy_for_university_colleges/1253995847176

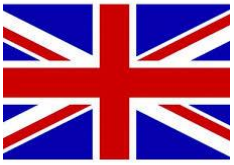
8 Norway: 14 new research infrastructures made the list

Fourteen new projects have been added to the Norwegian Roadmap for Research Infrastructure 2014, which provides an overview of laboratories, databases and equipment that are of particular importance for Norwegian research.

Full article available at:
http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/14_new_research_infrastructures_made_the_list/1253995926009

9 More UK students consider study abroad, but US numbers drop

The number of British students considering study overseas has increased by 17% in a year to more than one in three, a report by Education Intelligence, the British Council's higher education research division, has found.



A survey of 2,630 UK students found that 37% were considering overseas study, compared with 20% in March 2013.

But when 4,680 United States students were questioned for the same study, it was found that the number wanting to study abroad had decreased to 44% from 56% in 2013.

The report, *Broadening Horizons 2014: Embedding a culture of overseas study*, was released recently ahead of the British Council's major “Going Global” conference in Miami at the end of April, and aims to provide insight into how UK and US student demand for overseas study is changing.

Full article available at:
http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20140422200915221

10 Britain to Build $340 Million Polar Research Ship

British Antarctic Survey Ship shape. Artist's rendition of the United Kingdom's planned polar research ship

In another headline-grabbing announcement of new research infrastructure spending, U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced today that Britain would build a new £200 million ($340 million) polar research ship by 2019. The new ship, as yet unnamed, will allow researchers to travel deeper into the Arctic and Antarctic, deploy robotic submarines and underwater gliders, and have extensive onboard laboratories. It will also service bases in the British Antarctic Territory.

Full article available at: http://news.sciencemag.org/europe/2014/04/britain-build-340-million-polar-research-ship

11 £375 million ($632.7 million) for United Kingdom's research and innovation collaboration with Emerging Powers

The UK Government announced £75 million ($126.6 million) of UK funding per year for five years to promote research capacity building in emerging economies in the Autumn Statement in December. The detailed plans are still being developed with the view that the fund will start in the 2014/15 financial year. The UK Higher Education International Unit (IU) welcomed this major investment in internationalization as a strong signal to key emerging economies that the UK is eager to build partnerships, and a significant opportunity for the UK higher education sector. It is particularly important that this is a new investment, in addition to the ring-fenced science and research budget.

Full article available at: http://www.international.ac.uk/newsletters/international-focus-99/articles/%C2%A3375-million-for-research-and-innovation-collaboration-with-emerging-powers.aspx

12 United Kingdom's EPSRC anniversary celebrates 20 years of scientific innovation

EPSRC
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Twenty years ago no one had invented graphene, regenerative medicine was a mere possibility and the internet was in its infancy.

1994 was the year that the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) was formed to sponsor research and training, focusing on the engineering and physical sciences. It was created after a government review of research funding concluded that the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) should be split into discipline-specific Councils.

EPSRC invests its current annual budget of £800 million into a range of subjects – from math to materials science and from information technology to structural engineering. To celebrate the

world-leading research, people and innovations that EPSRC has supported over the last 20 years, the Council are organizing a range of activities to take place throughout 2014.

Full article available at:
http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2014/Pages/20yearsofinnovation.aspx

13 Women and minorities still face uphill struggle in UK science

Even with the government's attempts to increase the representation of women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities in science and mathematics, progress in the United Kingdom has remained too slow, according to a report published today by a UK non-profit organization.

Full article available at:
http://www.nature.com/news/women-and-minorities-still-face-uphill-struggle-in-uk-science-1.15177